11: Karolyi E-4, 5 (no date) 1931? EC1 Hungary EC1

241 decided by the yield of the crop how the winter purchases
527 and the many prospective marriages will turn out.

In order that all who need it may share in the
[401] blessings of the harvest, the use of harvesting machinery is not tolerated in Hungary. The role of the labourer has remained an essential part in cutting the crops, and thanks to this, one may still see and admire the
[412] spectacle of swinging scythes working their way into the fields, felling the swaying wheat into rows that follow the undulating line of valley and hill. After the men come the plucking girls, whose deft and tireless hands bind the wheat into sheaves and pile them up into huge cross-like formations. Harvest must end in the shortest possible time, because the ripe ears easily spill the heavy grain, and it would be a bitter thing to see the price of life falling to waste. From daybreak until the last faint rays of the declining moon harvesting goes on, and once the crop is cut the sheaves are piled upon the carriages and taken to the farmyard to be threshed and preserved in the granary. It is a wonderful sight to watch the immense loads pass by, drawn by a double yoke of long-horned Hungarian oxen, while the slanting rays of the setting sun throw a halo of golden dust round the glittering mass of fresh-cut wheat.

527 As soon as the last of the wheat-crop has been cut, the harvesters prepare for the harvest festival — a feast vibrating with the anticipation of rest and recreation — a ceremony permeated with satisfaction and gratitude, to be followed by the merriment of unbounded celebration. Of the longest stalks of unthreshed wheat a harvest wreath or crown is woven, or, in some regions, a monstrance, a tower, or a bell. The harvest wreath is taken home from the fields hanging on a pole which is placed on the shoulders of the prettiest girls. It is then presented